

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 SEP 2006

Re. box V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following document:  
D1: US 4 548 040 A (MILLER ROBERT A ET AL) 22 October 1985
- 2 Document D1 is seen as the closest prior art. It discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document):  
A method (p. 100) for detecting contaminants on turbine components (40) of a turbine (31) (based on its pressure behavior measured by a pressure sensor unit (54)), from which the object of the independent claim 1 differs in that at least one current oscillation characteristic value of at least one turbine component is determined.
  - 2.1 The object of claim 1 is thus novel (Article 33 (2) PCT). The object to be achieved with the present invention can thus be seen as an improved method (with ongoing monitoring instead of checking at intervals).
  - 2.2 The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application for achieving this object is based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:  
  
Determining the current oscillation characteristic value of a turbine component for detecting contaminants on said component is neither known nor suggested by the disclosed prior art.
  - 2.3 Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1 and thus also meet the requirements of the PCT in relation to novelty and inventive step.
- 3 Document D1 is seen as the closest prior art. It discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document) a device (100) for detecting contaminants on turbine

components (40) of a turbine (31) (with reference to its pressure behavior measured by a pressure sensor unit (54)), from which object of independent claim 1 differs by at least one sensor unit for determining at least one current oscillation characteristic value of at least one turbine component.

3.1 The object of claim 10 is thus novel (Article 33 (2) PCT). The object to be achieved with the present invention can thus be seen as an improved device (with ongoing monitoring instead of checking at intervals).

3.2 The solution proposed in claim 10 of the present application for achieving this object is based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

Using a sensor unit for determining the current oscillation characteristic value of a turbine component for detecting contaminants on said component is neither known nor suggested by the disclosed prior art.

3.3 Claims 11-18 are dependent on claim 10 and thus also meet the requirements of the PCT in relation to novelty and inventive step.